



Media and Book Reviews

UpToDate

edited by Denise S. Basow, UpToDate, 2013, \$499/year (\$199/year for trainees)

In a technological era dominated by a constant barrage of medical and nonmedical information, a challenge for the clinical neurologist and trainees is maintaining quick and efficient access to high-yield, clinically relevant information.

UpToDate is a Web-based application owned by Wolters Kluwer Health that provides access to articles and reviews of over 9,500 topics in 20 clinical specialties. The application is maintained by an editorial board of approximately 5,100 authors, editors, and peer reviewers. UpToDate is commonly used by medical trainees and has over 600,000 clinician users in approximately 149 countries via both Web-based and smart device products. Anecdotal reports and over 30 published articles highlight the ease of querying the database, clinical relevance of the topics, and its ability to enhance medical education and patient care.

UpToDate is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, allowing subscribers the ability to earn CME credit by providing logged hours and a description of the application of one's findings to clinical practice. New features include a graphics search function, which provides an opportunity to query over 23,000 figures, tables, illustrations, diagrams, and videos. A new Webinar series offers bimonthly video sessions. A "What's new" section highlights the most important recent updates organized by specialty.

For the neurologist, UpToDate provides an efficient method for querying topics in clinical neurology that fall under several broad categories: 1) diagnostic reviews, which provide information on epidemiologic characteristics, clinical presentations, and diagnostic testing; 2) therapeutic reviews, which provide information on therapeutic approaches and prognosis; 3)

medication reviews, which provide indications, dosage, side effects, and other pharmacologic information; and 4) patient handout and other information. The reviews are written in narrative form and are divided into relevant clinical categories. Discussions are heavily evidence-based with embedded citations that provide quick links to the corresponding primary literature. Editors-in-chief of the Neurology section include Dr. Michael Aminoff, Dr. Timothy Pedley, and Dr. Jerome Posner.

Several minor limitations exist. Though pathophysiologic mechanisms are reviewed in some articles, they are not the primary focus of most reviews. While easily searchable by disease type, information is organized in the aforementioned categories and does not facilitate querying for specific data, statistics, or questions that fall outside the topic headings above. Pharmacologic reviews are of limited utility, mainly providing a means of referencing Food and Drug Administration–approved dosing regimens and pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic information. Medication side effects, specific drug–drug interactions, and other information are often more effectively displayed or searchable in other drug-specific applications. While links to full-text articles are available through the application, journal subscription is required to view the entire article and is not included with the UpToDate subscription. This can substantially limit the ability to access primary literature for individual users.

UpToDate is by far one of the most comprehensive, efficient, and effective means of searching for clinically meaningful information on neurologic diseases. This resource provides an invaluable tool to medical students, residents, and practicing physicians at all levels of training.

Reviewed by Roy E. Stroud, MD

Disclosure: Dr. Stroud serves on the editorial team of the Media and Book Reviews of Neurology®. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

© 2013 American Academy of Neurology

Note to Book Publishers: *Neurology*® provides reviews of books of interest to the clinical neurologist. Please send any books for possible review in the journal to: Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN, Editor-in-Chief, Neurology, 201 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Inquiries can be directed to: Journal@neurology.org. Please note that not all books received are chosen for review. We do not return books.

Neurology®

Media and Book Reviews: UpToDate
Neurology 2013;81:e106
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182a6cc54

This information is current as of September 30, 2013

Updated Information & Services	including high resolution figures, can be found at: http://n.neurology.org/content/81/14/e106.full
Permissions & Licensing	Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at: http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions
Reprints	Information about ordering reprints can be found online: http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2013 American Academy of Neurology. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.

